

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act. The LECs are not the sole owners of the infrastructure that CLECs, ISPs, and others are requesting access to and need in order to provide competitive services. They are a public facility partially underwritten by the taxpayers and should be available to all companies that wish to provide telecomm and data services to homes and businesses. No new company could possibly be competitive should they have to replicate the infrastructure that the LECs have built over the last 100 years partially subsidized by the taxpayers. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country.